

dialects are Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Bicol, Pampango, and Pangasinan. All are chiefly of Malay origin, which means that while the user of one dialect is unable to understand the user of another dialect, it is easy for them to pick up dialects other than their own. The dialects are no longer pure, for in them have been incorporated Sanskrit, Chinese, Spanish, and even English words.

Because of linguistic difficulties, it has been necessary for the people to make use of a foreign language as a common medium of intercourse. Formerly this language was Spanish, now it is English. The American Government from the beginning declared English to be the basis of education and organized a comprehensive public-school system for the purpose of making it the national language of the Islands. English was used from the first in the executive departments. The development of English as a court language was retarded when special consideration was shown the Spanish-speaking members of the bar, but nevertheless it is an official language of the courts and is steadily gaining ground there. In the Philippine Legislature some time elapsed before any English was spoken in the deliberations, but now it is not uncommon for English and Spanish to be used interchangeably in speeches delivered in the legislative body.

Many more Filipinos use English than Spanish, and English, it is admitted, is fast supplanting Spanish. It has been estimated that English is now understood and spoken by more than a million Filipinos, and that Manila alone has more than one hundred thousand inhabitants speaking English. A teacher in the Province of Cagayan (Esteban A. de

Ocampo) learned
by issuing a questionnaire to students
representing most of the
towns in the province that seventy-two per cent
of the students
read English with more facility than they do the
dialect, that
ninety-one per cent of them prefer to write
letters in English,
and that sixty-eight per cent of them carry on
conversations
with their friends in English. Notwithstanding
these conclu-